

The Kentucky Columnel



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The student magazine of The Kentucky School for the Blind,
published during the school year, each November, March and June.

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Volume II Number 2

March 1947

Louisville, Kentucky

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The students who are attending Male High and Halleck Hall had a privilege which not many students enjoy. This was the opportunity of participating in a teachers' meeting here at school, and offering suggestions and criticisms which we felt would help the students from our school following us in to the public high schools.

After school had been in session for several weeks, Mr. Langan called one of his regular staff meetings, and having previous knowledge of it, we came well prepared. Differences in methods were first mentioned, before the suggestions and criticisms started. A few compliments also crept into the conversation. No one felt offended when constructive criticism was offered. Our teachers were most cooperative in accepting the suggestions proposed for better preparing students to attend the public high schools.

Going to public high school is something comparatively new for blind students, though some few other schools have used the same plan. We are convinced now that the system will work if given a fair trial. Sure there are difficulties, but they can be surmounted. They can be overcome, and the new people you meet, the new friends you make, and the new world you enter into will be your reward.

All of our teachers have helped us tremendously, and without them the job would have been impossible. Their sacrifice of time and effort after school and in the evenings has made this advantage possible, and we are extremely grateful.

Ote Campbell '47

SCOUTING

During the Scouts' annual Christmas Party three new Scouts were admitted to Troop 10. This brings our total up to forty.

Three boys are trying for second-class rating, and have passed about half of the required tests. Six others are getting along well toward their first class badges.

During Scout Anniversary week, we gave a program in assembly. The date was February 14, and everyone seemed to enjoy the program. The next day the Troop Chorus gave a fifteen minute program on radio station WINN.

Since all members of the Senior Patrol attend Male High School, we have formed a KSB Male Hi Club. We meet once a month and have informal parties. The club sponsors friendly relations between the two schools.

All of the scouts are looking forward to spring when we hope to do some camping and take part in some other outdoor activities.

Oral Miller 8th Grade

Cafeteria Mental is the name we have given our grade 2 braille reading and writing class because in it we have found as many items for the mind as there are dishes for the appetite in any cafeteria.

This is the first time grade 2 has been taught in a regular class and we are deriving profit and pleasure from it. Come along with us and see our mental menu.

Guided by Helen L. Wear's book, CLASSWAY TO STANDARD ENGLISH BRAILLE, we began the course by learning the other 142 characters of the literary code. We already knew the 51 which comprise grade 1½ braille.

In order to practice our new skill we divided the week into two days of writing and three days of reading. For writing, we learned to operate the braille writer. This also is a first in regular class work. We much prefer the writer over the slate not only because we can write faster, but also because we can see what we have written without losing our place and thus consuming more time in going forward again.

Our first goal in reading is to read for ideas---to abandon forever the beginner's habit of reading word by word. In order to be sure of the ideas the writer put down, we must understand thoroughly the meaning of punctuation marks. We have not yet reached the study of all punctuation marks in our English, but we decided that they must be much like the directions one receives far from home to school, we have learned how easy it is to reach a destination by obeying the markers along the way.

Punctuation marks are the signposts along the highway of the printed page. Here is what they say: comma, hesitate; semi-colon, pause a little longer; colon, look for a list to follow; period, stop--here comes a new thought; exclamation, there was a special kind of feeling; parentheses, the writer is adding extra information; brackets, the editor is adding information; interrogation, use a question-asking tone of voice; quotation, someone is speaking; inner quotation, the person talking is allowing another to speak also; apostrophe, letters have been left out, or possession is indicated; hyphen, the word is not finished on the line or two or more words have been made into one; dash, the speaker is stuttering, has changed his mind, or is going to summarize; asterisk, there is a footnote; ellipsis, something has been omitted; accent mark, this is a foreign word we have adopted and we are using the original pronunciation; italics, there is a change of print to show one of many things; letter sign, this is a letter and not an abbreviation.

By learning grade 2 in the sixth grade we are preparing ourselves to use our books to the best advantage during the remainder of our school life. Beginning with the seventh grade all books are written in grade 2. Now that we had mastered the 193 characters of the literary code and the signposts to keep the thought road clear, what could we read?

We decided to read magazines. Instead of one textbook where everybody would prepare and read the same thing, each person selected an article from a current magazine. Every reading day we are eager to hear what our classmate is going to read to us, and we enjoy a distinct sense of satisfaction in sharing what we like with the others.

In learning to read and write grade 2 braille, we are broadening our appreciation of reading and striving to increase our comprehension as well as our speed; we are developing accuracy in writing---accuracy which we hope will carry over to our typing, and also to neatness of mind and performance in all we do.

6th Grade Class
Lula May Wash, Teacher

THE MUSIC BOX

The music students have had the opportunity of hearing some excellent concerts during the past few weeks. On January 23 we had the privilege of hearing Mr. E. Pwerc Biggs, who appeared in an organ recital at the Memorial Auditorium. On February 13 we heard Mr. Alexander Brailowsky in a piano recital. Mr. Gunnar Johansen presented a fine piano concert at the Woman's Club on March 23.

Mr. Mootz, our piano instructor, went to his home town, Continental, Ohio, by plane on March 12. He presented a piano recital in the school auditorium there on Friday evening, March 14. The recital was sponsored by the American Legion and was attended by an audience of about five hundred people. When we asked Mr. Mootz about the recital, he replied modestly that it went off all right. We are led to believe, however, that the recital must have been excellent, since he exhibited such ability in a previous recital here at school.

Mr. Mootz plans to have some of the senior students from the University of Louisville School of Music come out to school to give recitals during the spring. Our own student recital will be presented in May.

Imogene Cheesman '49

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

For most of the students, this was the first Christmas they had spent at home in many years. This was made possible by our Superintendent, Mr. Langan. Not only was every student made very happy by this arrangement, but the teachers and employees also enjoyed a vacation, well deserved.

When we returned to school after our holidays, we were asked to tell what Christmas had meant to us this year. To children of the lower grades, the chief thought is that this is the time for the visit of St. Nick. Of course they are glad to get home, for love of parents is something that starts from birth and lasts throughout life. This love is like age itself, it grows greater with each passing year. But to a sophomore of seventeen, Christmas has a different meaning. Boys and girls of high school age feel that they are reaching maturity, and thoughts of St. Nick's visit no longer thrill them.

To me, Christmas vacation meant going home to see my parents and relatives; the unforgettable look of my little sister when she woke in the morning and saw the tree which was surrounded with what must have seemed to her, heavenly gifts. And who could forget sitting with Mother and Dad near the fireplace talking of the wonderful Christmases that had passed, and planning for the one to come?

Then I stop to take another good look around me and this time I get another meaning. I see cousins with whom I once played cowboys and Indians, who are now married, and others who are just back from the Service; and I am reminded of those that are no longer with us. Now I notice my own mother and dad. Dad's hair is a little lighter and also thinner in spots. Mother has lost interest in her own recreation. She now just thinks of work and of my sister's and my future. Are they growing old rapidly? Have I been asleep and just now awakened to realize that time is speeding faster than I thought? Then, like the sun coming through the clouds I see a new picture. Even though they may look a few years older, their hearts are as young as ever. Christmas not only means as much, but more to them now. And I have learned that the surprised look on my sister's face and the chats by the fireside meant much to them. Things such as these make their lives happy.

My vacation is soon over and it is time to say good-bye. This is not a sorrowful occasion, because I am anxious to get back to school so that I can hurry to finish my schooling and get out into the world and enjoy some of the happiness enjoyed by my parents.

Billy Wood, 10th Grade.

MY CHRISTMAS

I've been home every Christmas with my daddy, sister and mother. This Christmas was my happiest one. And I hope every Christmas is just like it.

The best present I got this Christmas was a pair of skates. I got them from my Aunt Louise. My sister got a pair of skates too. My daddy taught us how to skate. It was hard to skate at first, but I know how to skate now. And I brought them back to school with me. Now I skate down in the play room.

David Murrell, 5th Grade.

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WHAT I DID AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas morning my two nieces and I got up to eat breakfast. But first we went to see what Santa had put in our stockings. He had filled them full with fruit, candy, peanuts, and other things. Then we went to see what was under the tree for us. Mother gave out the presents. I got a lot of toys and clothes. My nieces got mostly toys.

Mother cooked a fine dinner. And the rest of the day we all played games and told stories and did many things.

Claudia Dotson, 5th Grade

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MY CHRISTMAS VACATION

The girls and boys of the K. S. B. were overjoyed when they heard that we were all going home for our Christmas holidays. We were filled with excitement and counted the days until the time came for us to go. That morning we leaped out of bed, laughing and telling what we would do when we go home.

Eating a quick breakfast, I was soon on my way to the station. After having a drowsy ride on the train, I got off at Lexington, where my dad met me. Soon I was home and having just loads of fun. The time passed quickly, every day bringing new excitement and new fun.

In a short while it was time to return to school, so after another train ride, I was back at the K. S. B. It was good to meet all of my friends once more, but I was tired and went off to bed and was soon asleep.

Jerry Cameron, 7th Grade

ACTIVITIES

Our blissful two-weeks' Christmas vacation came to an abrupt end when back at school on January 6, we resumed our regular studies.

We lost both a friend and a very efficient nurse when Mrs. Harvey E. Elliott moved to Virginia. Miss Hammazetta Kinser, our new nurse, is a recent graduate of Norton Infirmary, and is well liked by the students.

We have been fortunate in securing some much needed equipment. First, and foremost, is the switchboard, which is now being installed and will soon be ready for use. Our new school bus will no longer have to stand out in the weather for a new garage has just been completed to house the bus and the truck. The KSB theme song is fast becoming, "Don't Fence Me In" since a new fence has been erected around the school campus and the American Printing House property to protect our equipment and keep out undesirable neighbors. Last, but not least, the garage is now the proud possessor of a new station wagon.

On January 28, a student committee and two faculty advisors, Miss McClaskey and Mr. Mootz, met to plan a Valentine party for the evening of February 14. The party consisted of both dancing and games. To start the mischievous merrymaking, things got underway with a nerve-wracking scavenger hunt. Some of the articles required by the searchers were: a raw egg, unbroken; an empty ice cream cone; a silver sugar spoon; and to count the number of fence posts along Haldeman Avenue. To secure these and other articles, the routine of the cottage matrons was interrupted, and our good-natured dietitian was roused from her easy chair.

Upon returning from the hunt, each member of the winning group was presented with a large Baker's Chocolate bar. Each member of the group in second place received a box of Crackerjacks, and everybody got a stick of chewing gum. Refreshments were then served, and the Valentine box opened, after which the dancing began and more exciting games were played. The party was a great success, and by eleven o'clock everyone was tired and sleepy and ready to say good-night.

Our Dramatic Club has been reorganized. At Mr. Langan's suggestion, it was decided that only high school students should be members. This was done in view of the fact that in previous years the club had consisted of the seventh, eighth and ninth grades exclusively. This made it necessary to put on plays for students of junior high school age. This year the choice is A LITTLE HONEY a three act comedy by William Davidson. It is the story of a typical American family, their problems, and the love affairs of the younger generation. It is to be given the latter part of April.

Mr. Langan introduced an entirely new project when on March 1 he brought five young men to Louisville to take a training course. These young men have recently lost their sight, and are delighted to think that they soon will be able to travel alone as a result of the lessons in travel which they are taking. They also are taking braille, typewriting, piano tuning, and handicraft work at the Adult Work Shop for the Blind. The participants in this course are: Roy Kraemer, Bellevue, Ky.; Russell Engle, Newport, Ky.; Wallace Gordon, Golden Pond, Ky.; George Wilson, Barbourville, Ky.; and John Steele, Henderson, Ky. All of them believe that what they are doing now will change the entire course of their lives, both in attitude, and actual ability to accomplish what they had once hoped they might.

Anna Sue Cochran '49.
Johanna Pennington '49.

A TRIP TO BALTIMORE

Have you ever been to Baltimore, Maryland? With its towering buildings and hundreds of monuments, it makes a fine and beautiful old city.

On March 13th, I left the Kentucky School for the Blind bound for Baltimore with five other boys on the wrestling team. I arose at three o'clock in the morning; at three-thirty I had a fine breakfast; and by four-twenty, I was on my way.

We went first to Cincinnati, then on to Wheeling, West Virginia. After crossing a little neck of West Virginia, we came into Pennsylvania. We had a long ride through Pennsylvania, and finally came into Maryland. That night we were tired and worn out, when the station wagon swung through the gate headed for the main building of the Maryland School for the Blind. When we arrived, we were shown to our rooms and were soon fast asleep.

The greetings we received next morning were very warm. The friendly Maryland boys laughed and talked with us and were glad to show us around their school.

That night we went to Johns Hopkins University Gymnasium for the tournament matches. We were the "greenhorns" of the meet, so we didn't do so well. Saturday night the story was the same, but we had learned a lot about wrestling that we would never forget. By the time all the matches were over, it was after midnight. Mr. Johnson took us to The Little Diner in Overlea, near the school, and told us to eat lightly. Being very hungry, we soon forgot what he had said and ate our "fill".

Bright and early the next morning we left for home. We came back on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. This fine road is so constructed that there is no road joining it. When you come to a cross-

road it goes above or below it. It also passes through several old railroad tunnels, instead of going over the top of the mountains. We arrived back in Louisville about twelve o'clock Sunday night. After getting to bed, we were fast asleep.

I want to thank Mr. Langan for making it possible for us to have such a fine trip.

Jerry Cameron, 7th Grade

SPORTS

As our readers will remember, wrestling was introduced in our physical education program last year, but we were unable to obtain any local competition. The sport was continued this year, and eleven boys were out for the team. Mr. Ben Johnson, a graduate student at the University of Louisville, is our coach and soon gained the confidence of all the boys.

It seemed that all our hard work and training would come to the same result this year. Mr Langan, who was instrumental in getting wrestling introduced in the eastern schools for the blind, tried to interest schools in the neighboring states and also the local high schools in the sport, but could find no takers.

The first tournament of the Eastern Athletic Association of Schools for the Blind was scheduled for Baltimore on March 14-15, and Mr. Langan applied for admission for our school. It was a long trip, far out of our territory, but would provide our untried team with some competition. Our application for admission was approved by the Eastern Schools, and our team of five took off for the Maryland School on March 13.

In the preliminaries, four of our five boys were defeated. Jerry Cameron wrestled in the 95 lb. class; Dan Abbott was entered in the 105 lb. class; Bill Wood was our representative in the 133 lb. class; Oral Miller was in the 145 lb. class; and Edison Womack was our 165 lb. man.

In the finals, Oral Miller scored our only real victory by taking third-place in his class. Wood and Womack won third places by draws. Our team naturally took last place in the seven team tournament, but our boys had the chance of visiting another school and meeting students from Perkins, Overbrook, Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland. We hope to be back next year with the same boys, as no one on the team this year was a senior. Kenneth Howard also made the trip by the flip of a coin, as student manager.

An interesting event in our wrestling season was a visit from Doctor Ed Meski, chiropractor, turned professional wrestler. Meski did his college wrestling at Wittenburg College in Ohio, and is now one of the top professionals. He talked to us about training and condition.

Our attention has now been turned toward track, and with the nice weather many boys have been out for the team. Incomplete plans call for a triangular meet here on May 3, with the Ohio and the Virginia Schools as our opponents. We also hope to enter the Eastern Meet in Philadelphia on May 17.

Lynn Mitchell '47

ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the past month we have had the pleasure of entertaining Mr. Egbert N. Peeler, Superintendent of the North Carolina School for the Blind, and Mr. Victor Hugo Vaughn, Principal of the School for the Blind, in Worcester, South Africa. Both of these gentlemen were interesting guests, and talked to both the students and the teachers about their respective schools.

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Mr. Roy Haynes, who has been a member of our faculty for the past year, resigned on March 1 to take another position. Mrs. Langan is substituting for the remainder of the school year, on a part time basis, and the other classes have been divided between Miss Wash and Miss Hicks.

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On Friday, April 18, Miss Regina Piraja Da Silva from Sao Paulo, Brazil, will speak to our students about the school for the blind in her country, and the customs of the people. Miss Piraja is in this country on a scholarship and is currently studying the methods of embossing braille at the American Printing House for the Blind. This program will be in connection with the celebration of Pan-American Week.

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Our Commencement Exercises will be held on Thursday, June 12 this year, and the children will go home on the following day.

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The Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association will probably be held here at school on Saturday, June 14, according to the tentative plans of the Committee in charge.
